

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-36 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 6, 26, and 28 are now amended. Claims 34-36 are now added. The new claims and claim amendments are fully supported by the application as filed and do not present new subject matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 6 stands objected to for being dependent upon canceled Claim 5. Claim 6 is now amended to depend upon Claim 3, which is currently pending. Therefore, this objection to Claim 6 is now overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection of Claim 6.

Claim 33 stands objected to because the description of the first absorption polarizer allegedly does not correspond to the description of the first absorption polarizer provided in Claim 28. Applicants now amend Claim 33 to recite "the second absorption polarizer" instead of "the first absorption polarizer." Therefore, this objection of Claim 33 is now overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection of Claim 33.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hara (U.S. Pat. No. 6,661,482). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part and with reference to Figure 1 for exemplary purposes only as the invention includes numerous embodiments, a display unit having a first polarized light selecting unit 110 on a viewing side thereof that transmits a first polarized light and reflects a second polarized light, a transmitting polarization axis varying unit 140, a second polarized light selecting unit 120 disposed between the first polarized light selecting unit and the transmitting polarization axis varying unit, and a third polarized light selecting unit 150. The third polarized light selecting unit 150 is disposed on a backside of the transmitting polarization axis varying unit. The third polarized light selecting unit transmits a third polarized light T and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light. The transmitting polarization axis varying unit converts at least a part of the third polarized light into the first polarized light.

The Hara reference appears to disclose, with reference to Figure 6, an optical element having a circular polarized light separation plate 12, a quarter wavelength plate 23, an absorptive polarizing plate 24, an absorptive polarizing plate 4, a quarter wavelength plate 3, and a lighting device 5.

The Hara reference fails to disclose or suggest a third polarized light selecting unit disposed on a backside of a transmitting polarization axis varying unit, the third polarized light selecting unit transmitting a third polarized light and absorbing a fourth polarized light and having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light, as set forth in amended Claim 1. The Hara reference further fails to disclose wherein the transmitting polarization axis varying unit converts at least a part of

the third polarized light into the first polarized light, also as set forth in amended Claim 1.

The Hara reference fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of amended Claim 1. Therefore, the Hara reference does not anticipate or render obvious amended Claim 1 and those claims dependent therefrom. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 102 rejection of Claims 1 and 2.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14-16, 18, 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotchick et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,624,936) in view of Hara (U.S. Pat. No. 6,661,482). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotchick et al. and Hara in view of Kurihara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,538,709). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotchick et al. and Hara in view of Sekiguchi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,690,438). Claims 19 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotchick et al. and Hara in view of Clarke (U.S. Pat. No. 6,462,795). Claims 9 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotchick et al. and Hara in view of Kusuda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,559,902). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 3 recites, in part and with reference to Figure 1 for exemplary purposes only as the invention includes numerous embodiments, a first polarized light selecting unit 110 disposed on a viewing side of a transmitting polarization axis varying unit 140, a second polarized light selecting unit 150 disposed on a backside of the

transmitting polarization axis varying unit, and a third polarized light selecting unit 120 disposed between the first unit 110 and the varying unit 140. The second polarized light selecting unit 150 transmits a third polarized light T and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light. The transmitting polarization axis varying unit converts at least a part of the third polarized light to a first polarized light T.

Amended Claim 26 recites, in part and with reference to Figure 1 for exemplary purposes only as the invention includes numerous embodiments, a first polarized light selecting unit 110 adapted to transmit a first polarized light T, a transmitting polarization axis varying unit 140, a second polarized light selecting unit 120 disposed between the first polarized light selecting unit 110 and the transmitting polarization axis varying unit 140, and a third polarized light selecting unit 150 disposed on a backside of the transmitting polarization axis varying unit 140. The third polarized light selecting unit 150 transmits a third polarized light and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light. The transmitting polarization axis varying unit 140 converts at least a part of the third polarized light to the first polarized light T.

The teachings of the Hara reference are set forth above in Applicants' response to the Section 102 rejection. As also set forth above, the Hara reference fails to disclose or alone suggest, a polarized light selecting unit disposed on a backside of a transmitting polarization axis varying unit that transmits a third polarized light and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light, as set forth in amended Claims 3 and 26. Further, the Hara

reference fails to disclose or suggest the transmitting polarization axis varying unit converting at least a part of the third polarized light to the first polarized light, as set forth in amended Claims 3 and 26. Therefore, the Hara reference fails to disclose or alone suggest each and every feature of amended Claims 3 and 26.

The Kotchick et al. reference appears to disclose, with reference to Figure 4, a display unit 400 having a touch panel 416, a first polarizer 402, a retardation compensation layer 404, an LCD unit 408, and a polarizer/transflector layer 412. Ambient light ray 422 is transmitted through the polarizer/transflector layer 412 to the backlight 414. Backlight ray 430 passes through the polarizer/transflector layer 412 and through the remaining components of the display unit 400 so that the backlight ray 430 can be viewed by the user. Light rays 422 and 430 have different polarization axes, as illustrated in Figure 4. The polarization axis of the light ray 422 crosses the polarization axis of the light ray 430. Nevertheless, both light rays 422 and 430 pass through the layer 412. The Kotchick et al. reference fails to disclose or alone suggest a polarized light selecting unit disposed on a backside of a transmitting polarization axis varying unit that transmits a third polarized light and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light, as set forth in amended Claims 3 and 26.

The Hara and Kotchick et al. references fail to alone disclose or suggest each and every feature of amended Claims 3 and 26. Therefore, combination of these references fails to suggest each and every feature of amended Claims 3 and 26 and those claims dependent therefrom. Specifically, combination of these references fails to render obvious a polarized light selecting unit disposed on a backside of a transmitting

polarization axis varying unit, the polarized light selecting unit transmitting a third polarized light and absorbing a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light, as set forth in amended Claims 3 and 26.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 103 rejection of Claims 3 and 26 and those claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 3, 11, and 28-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,400,158) and further in view of Hara (U.S. Pat. No. 6,661,482). Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0063236) and further in view of Hara.

The relevant features of amended independent Claim 3 are set forth above.

Amended Claim 28 recites, in part and with reference to Figure 1 for exemplary purposes only as the invention includes numerous embodiments, a first absorptive polarizer 150 on one side of an electrooptical panel 140, a reflective polarizer 110 on the other side of the electrooptical panel, and a second absorptive polarizer 120 disposed between the reflective polarizer 110 and the electrooptical panel 140. The first absorption type polarizer 150 transmits a third polarized light and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light. The electrooptical panel 140 converts at least a part of the third polarized light to the first polarized light T.

The teachings of the Hara reference are set forth above in relation to the Section 102 rejection. The Hara reference fails to disclose or alone suggest an absorption type polarizer disposed on a backside of a transmitting polarization axis varying unit that

transmits a third polarized light and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light, and a transmitting polarization axis varying unit converting at least a part of the third polarized light to the first polarized light, as set forth in amended Claims 3 and 28. Therefore, the Hara reference fails to disclose or alone suggest each and every feature of amended Claims 3 and 28.

The Ohnishi et al. reference appears to disclose, with reference to Figure 1, a polarizing plate 8 that is located on a backside of a liquid crystal panel 10. However, the Ohnishi et al. reference fails to disclose or alone suggest that the polarizing plate 8 transmits a third polarized light and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light, and a transmitting polarization axis varying unit that converts at least a part of the third polarized light to a first polarized light, as set forth in amended Claims 3 and 28. Therefore, the Ohnishi et al. reference fails to disclose or alone suggest each and every feature of amended Claims 3 and 28.

Because the Hara and Ohnishi et al. references fail to alone disclose or suggest each and every feature of amended Claims 3 and 28, combination of these references fails to render obvious Claims 3 and 28. Specifically, combination of these references fails to render obvious a polarized light selecting unit disposed on a backside of a transmitting polarization axis varying unit that transmits a third polarized light and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light, the transmitting polarization axis varying unit converting at least a part of the third polarized light to a first polarized light.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 103 rejection of Claims 3 and 28 and those claims dependent therefrom based on the Hara and Ohnishi et al. references.

Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0063236) and further in view of Hara.

The features of amended Claim 3 are set forth above in connection with the other Section 103 rejections.

The teachings of the Hara reference are set forth above in relation to the Section 102 rejection.

The Watson et al. reference appears to disclose, with reference to Figure 1C, a liquid crystal device 50 having a liquid crystal cell 52 and polarizers 54 and 60 on a backside of the liquid crystal cell 52. However, the Watson et al. reference fails to disclose or alone suggest a polarized light selecting unit that transmits a third polarized light and absorbs a fourth polarized light having a polarization axis crossing a polarization axis of the third polarized light and a transmitting polarization axis varying unit that converts at least a part of the third polarized light to a first polarized light, as set forth in amended Claim 3.

Because the Hara and Watson et al. references fail to alone disclose or suggest each and every feature of amended Claim 3, combination of these references fails to render obvious each and every feature of amended Claim 3. Therefore, combination of the Hara and Watson et al. references fails to render obvious amended Claim 3 and Claim 6 dependent therefrom. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 103 rejection of Claim 3 and Claim 6 dependent therefrom.